

## di·vide

di·vide (dī·vīd') *verb*

di·vid·ed, di·vid·ing, di·vides *verb, transitive*

1. a. To separate into parts, sections, groups, or branches. See synonyms at *separate*. b. To sector into units of measurement; graduate. c. To separate and group according to kind; classify.
2. a. To separate into opposing factions; disunite: "*They want not to divide either the Revolution or the Church but to be an integral part of both*" (Conor Cruise O'Brien). b. To cause (members of a parliament) to vote by separating into groups, as pro and con.
3. To separate from something else; cut off: *divided the boys from the girls for gym class*.
4. To apportion among a number. See synonyms at *distribute*.
5. *Mathematics*. a. To subject to the process of division. b. To be an exact divisor of.

*verb, intransitive*

1. a. To become separated into parts. b. To branch out, as a river. c. To form into factions; take sides. d. To vote by dividing.
2. *Mathematics*. To perform the operation of division.
3. *Biology*. To undergo cell division.

*noun*

1. A dividing point or line: "*would clearly tip the court . . . across a dangerous constitutional divide*" (Lawrence H. Tribe).
2. A ridge of land; a watershed.

[Middle English *dividen*, from Latin *dīvidere* : *dī-*, *dis-*, *dis-* + *-videre*, to separate.]

— di·vid'·a·ble *adjective*

*The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.